

Many commonsense Democrats do not support this newest outrage. Soccer moms taking their kids to school certainly do not favor this policy. The President's own drug czar does not support this policy. Experts who have studied the problem do not support this policy; experts, that is, who believe that politics should not get in the way of good science.

No, Mr. Speaker, the people who fail to fight the drug war and who make excuses for that failure to protect kids from drugs are the ones behind this disastrous policy.

DISCHARGE PETITION WILL ALLOW A FULL, FAIR, AND OPEN DEBATE ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, as a number of individuals have mentioned this morning, today is Earth Day. I have some very important legislation, the leaking underground storage tank bill, that I would like to address. But as I was sitting there waiting for my turn, I could not help but notice that two of our Democratic colleagues got up and signed the discharge petition for campaign finance reform.

The Democratic Party is leading a fight for campaign finance reform, true campaign finance reform. What the discharge petition says, if we can get 218 signatures on it, is to bring forth our petition, which says let us have a full, fair, open debate on campaign finance. It does not endorse any proposal but lets us have a true, fair, open debate on campaign finance.

Unfortunately, the Republican Party leadership will not allow this to happen, so we have to use the discharge petition. So with two more Members signing today, we are now up to 204. We need 14 more Members to come down, have the courage to come down to the well of this floor and sign our discharge petition.

Mr. Speaker, the Democratic Party is leading the fight to have campaign finance reform, without endorsing any proposal. Let us do campaign finance reform. Sign the discharge petition.

TIME FOR CONGRESS TO PASS THE TAX LIMITATION AMENDMENT

(Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, the Constitution of the United States provides for 10 instances in which a supermajority is required for legislative approval. In other words, there are 10 occasions where legislators are required to have more than a majority of votes for legislative changes to be made. I think we need an 11th. It

is time for Congress to pass the tax limitation amendment to the Constitution.

The reasons why should be obvious to all Americans who pay taxes, but, just in case, let me explain. The main reason is because politicians who run on promises of tax cuts often end up doing exactly the opposite. They pass tax increases.

Just recall for a moment back in 1992 when a certain presidential candidate ran on a middle-class tax cut and, surprise, surprise, what do we get? We got a tax increase, the largest in U.S. history. Middle-class families now fork over between a quarter and a half of their income to the very politicians who have broken middle-class tax cut promises again and again. This amendment will make that a lot more difficult.

FIFTY-FIVE WOMEN IN CONGRESS SETS NEW RECORD

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, the House has just set another record, 55 strong; 55 strong women, that is, two new Democrats, one new Republican, all three gentlewomen from California, Representatives LOIS CAPPS, MARY BONO, and BARBARA LEE. Our thanks to California for sending us all three, for it is California that has made us 55.

The gentlewoman from California (Representative MARY BONO), a Republican, and the gentlewoman from California (Representative BARBARA LEE), a Democrat, were both sworn in yesterday. They embraced warmly on the floor in the spirit of our bipartisan Women's Caucus. Congratulations to the Democrats for the gentlewomen from California, Representative LOIS CAPPS and Representative BARBARA LEE, congratulations to the Republicans for the gentlewoman from California (Representative MARY BONO), and a special message for the Republicans: If they must send us more Republicans, please let them be women!

FREE NEEDLES TO DRUG ADDICTS, THE LATEST PROGRAM OF GOVERNMENT HANDOUTS

(Mr. THUNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, there the liberals go again. I do not get it. I do not get why the President is opposing his own drug czar by announcing that the Federal Government now wants to start another program of government handouts.

Enthusiasm for government handouts is nothing new for this administration, only this time the government wants to start handing out free needles to drug addicts. Instead of trying to get drug addicts off the street and into a

program that will stop their self-destructive behavior, the government will now give a green light to their drug habit and send them on their way with clean needles so that they can, get this, abuse drugs safely.

I have had about enough of the liberal insanity, and I think that most Americans are tired of left-wing experts peddling a policy based on bogus science that runs counter to common sense.

The liberals love to come up with new handouts: money, condoms, free this and free that. Now, just when we think it cannot get any worse, free needles for safe shooting. Safe shooting, America.

ON EARTH DAY, A REMINDER OF TWO ENVIRONMENTAL BILLS LOCKED UP IN THE HOUSE

(Mr. HINCHEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, as has been noted a couple of times here this morning, today is Earth Day. It is the day in which we remind ourselves of the symbiotic relationship that exists between our species and every other species on the planet and how dependent everything else is on Earth upon our actions.

It is also important for us to observe today that there are a number of environmental bills that are pending in this House, or I should say really locked up in this House, that are not making progress. I will mention just two, the Federal Superfund, which needs to be reauthorized, and the Endangered Species Act.

With regard to the Endangered Species Act, a recent poll of more than 400 American biologists indicates that they are deeply concerned about the loss of biological diversity which we are currently experiencing. They estimate that up to one-fifth of all the species on the Earth will be wiped out within the next 30 years, unless we do something to protect the habitat of these species.

We are directly linked to everything else on Earth. We have a responsibility to protect them. We have a responsibility to pass the Endangered Species Act and get other important environmental bills out on this floor.

□ 1030

JUDGE STARR IS MAKING PROGRESS

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, we hear quite often these days that Judge Starr is taking too long in his investigation of the White House and their various scandals. I would say one thing to my Democrat colleagues. Number